

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

21 July 2015

Report of the Youth Employment Commission

1. Summary Statement

- 1.1 The Youth Employment Commission was established by the Council at its annual meeting in May 2013, for a period of two years to work with public sector organisations, the business community, schools, colleges, young people's groups and organisations and other interested parties to develop an understanding of the reasons for the levels of unemployment, its implications now and for the future and what can be done to improve the situation for young people looking for and entering work.
- 1.2 The Commission has now produced its final report setting out the work it has done in the last two years and the recommendations that it has made.
- Further details are attached for your information.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report of the Youth Employment Commission is received by the Council.
- 2.2 That the report of the Youth Employment Commission be referred to the appropriate cabinet members for consideration of the approach that the Council may wish to take, in furtherance of the findings and recommendations of the Commission.

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3. Strategic Resource Implications

The recommendations of the Youth Employment Commission may have potential budget and other resource implications for the Council, which will be detailed in subsequent reports to the relevant cabinet member.

4. Legal and Statutory Implications

4.1 There are no legal and statutory implications arising from this report, which at this stage are recommendations of the Youth Employment Commission. Subsequent reports requiring a decision on these recommendations may have such implications, but these will be detailed in those reports.

4.2 The scrutiny function itself is contained within:-

- The Local Government Act 2000
- The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- The National Health Service Act 2006 and regulations and directions made under the Act
- The Localism Act 2011

5. Implications for Council's Scorecard Priorities

It is a key criterion that items identified for scrutiny need to contribute to the Scorecard priorities. The recommendations arising from this review directly contribute to the priority Great Prospects, Investing in businesses, people and jobs.

6. Background Details

6.1 During its two year lifespan the Commission heard evidence from the following people/organisations:-

- Sandwell's Senior Educational Psychologist;
- Sandwell Connexions;
- Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership;
- Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations;
- Representatives from Schools and Colleges;
- Future First;
- Job Junction;
- Sandwell Education Business Partnership;
- Black Country Talent Match;
- Black Country Training Group;

- Local businesses;
- Sandwell Targeted Youth Support Service;
- Sandwell Economic Regeneration Unit;
- Black Country Skills Factory;
- Sandwell Work, Enterprise and Development Agency (SWEDA);
- Walsall Works;
- The Sandwell Youth Parliament.

Desktop evidence was also gathered from the following sources:-

- NOMIS;
- Department for Education;
- Local Government Association;
- Ofsted – Going in the Right Direction? (September 2013);
- The Gatsby Charitable Foundation – Good Career Guidance (April 2014);
- Black Country Strategic Economic Plan ‘Made in the Black Country: Sold Around the World’ (March 2014);
- UK Commission for Employment and Skills – Catch 16-24;
- UK Commission for Employment and Skills – Growth Through People
- Ofsted;
- The Sutton Trust – Advancing Ambitions: the role of career guidance in supporting social mobility.

6.3 The final report of the Commission is attached.